



Are There Prominent Evangelists Tied to the Illuminati?

Sixbert SANGWA • June 27, 2024

In recent years, various conspiracy theories have alleged that certain mega-churches and prominent evangelist ministries may be connected to secretive societies like the Illuminati and Freemasons. These claims have caused concern, especially given the Illuminati's reputed goal to destabilize Christianity and pave the way for the reign of the Antichrist. Some Illuminati members have been whispered to have established religions with counterfeit doctrines, operating covertly to avoid detection. These ministers are perceived to be shaping a New Age Christianity that endorses liberal theology, which accommodates practices once considered abominations, seemingly aligning with the Illuminati's ambitions and contributing to the apostate state of the world. This is seen as a precursor to the Antichrist and expected to usher in the fall of this great city (Babylon) already built for him, as described in [Revelation 18:2](#): *"Fallen, fallen is Babylon the Great! She has become a dwelling place for demons, a haunt for every unclean spirit."*

While these allegations lack concrete evidence, they underscore the importance of critically examining the teachings and practices of these ministries in light of biblical doctrine. As [1 John 4:1](#) advises, *"Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world."* This brief article aims to expose these claims, highlight any false teachings or doctrines, and reflect on the potential spiritual dangers posed by these ministries.

Examining a Few Claims

Joel Osteen Ministries - Lakewood Church

Joel Osteen, the pastor of Lakewood Church, is often criticized for promoting the prosperity gospel, which suggests that faith can lead to wealth and success. This message can distort the true teachings of Christianity, shifting the focus from spiritual growth and eternal salvation to material wealth and temporary success. Jesus warned against the pursuit of wealth in [Matthew 6:19-21](#): *"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."* Furthermore, [1 Timothy 6:9-10](#) warns, "Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil."

T.D. Jakes Ministries - The Potter's House

T.D. Jakes is another prominent figure whose teachings sometimes come under scrutiny. His views on the Trinity have been questioned, with some accusing him of modalism – the belief that God is one person who has revealed Himself in three different modes, rather than the traditional Christian doctrine of the Trinity. The doctrine of the Trinity is central to Christian belief. [Matthew 28:19](#) states, *"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,"* affirming the distinct persons within the Godhead. Additionally, [2 Corinthians 13:14](#) provides, *"May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all,"* further emphasizing the distinct yet unified nature of the Trinity.

Kenneth Copeland Ministries

Kenneth Copeland is widely known for his emphasis on faith healing and the prosperity gospel. His teachings often suggest that financial and physical well-being are signs of divine favor, which can be problematic as it might imply that those who suffer are lacking in faith. The Bible teaches that suffering and trials are part of the Christian experience. [James 1:2-4](#) says, *"Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance."* Additionally, [2 Timothy 3:12](#) states, *"In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted."*

Benny Hinn Ministries

Benny Hinn is famous for his healing crusades, where he claims to perform miraculous healings. While many attest to experiencing healing, his methods and the authenticity of these healings have been questioned. True healing comes from God, and while miracles do happen, they should not be the primary focus of ministry. [James 5:14-15](#) advises, *"Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up."* Moreover, [Matthew 7:22-23](#) warns, *"Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and, in your name, perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'"*

Creflo Dollar Ministries - World Changers Church International

Creflo Dollar is another advocate of the prosperity gospel, teaching that faith can lead to financial success. This message has been criticized for potentially exploiting vulnerable believers who may give beyond their means in hopes of receiving financial blessings. Paul warned against the love of money in [1 Timothy 6:10](#): *"For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs."* Additionally, Jesus taught in [Luke 12:15](#), *"Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions."*

Expanded List

The following is an unexhaustive list of globally renowned evangelists who have been unofficially linked with the Illuminati, although no concrete evidence has been presented to validate these claims.

- Paula and Randy White - Paula White, as a spiritual advisor to former President Donald Trump. here and her husband Randy, co-pastors of Without Walls International Church have both been accused of Illuminati affiliations by fringe conspiracy groups.
- Joyce Meyer, a renowned prosperity gospel teacher from the charismatic Movement, has faced allegations of Illuminati connections.
- Rick Warren, the influential pastor of Saddleback Church, a Southern Baptist evangelical megachurch, has been a subject of discussion under this topic.
- Steven Furtick, the young, charismatic leader of Elevation Church, a Southern Baptist multi-site church, has been accused by some conspiracy theorists of Illuminati affiliations.
- Bill Hybels, the former senior pastor of Willow Creek Community Church, an evangelical Protestant church, faced Illuminati conspiracy theories before his retirement in 2018.
- Franklin Graham, the son of famed evangelist Billy Graham and a prominent figure in the evangelical community, has been targeted by Illuminati conspiracy theorists.
- James MacDonald, the former senior pastor of Harvest Bible Chapel, a non-denominational evangelical Christian church, was accused by some of having Illuminati ties before his dismissal in 2019.
- Juanita Bynum, a televangelist and motivational speaker associated with the Pentecostal movement, has faced Illuminati-related allegations from certain conspiracy theorists.
- Rod Parsley, the minister and founder of World Harvest Church, a charismatic evangelical Christian church, has been subject to Illuminati conspiracy claims.
- Brian Houston, the global senior pastor of Hillsong Church, a charismatic Christian megachurch, has also been targeted by Illuminati theorists.
- Cindy Jacobs, a prominent prophet and co-founder of Generals International, a charismatic Christian prayer ministry, has been accused of Illuminati involvement by some fringe groups.
- Greg Laurie, senior pastor of Harvest Christian Fellowship and Evangelical Christian, has been subjected to Illuminati conspiracy allegations.
- Kim Clement, a late prophetic minister and author with Charismatic Christian affiliations, faced accusations of Illuminati ties by fringe groups.
- Jentezen Franklin, senior pastor of Free Chapel and an Evangelical, has faced Illuminati-related allegations.
- Christine Caine, an author and speaker at the Charismatic Christian-affiliated Hillsong Church, has been accused of Illuminati involvement.
- Joseph Prince, senior pastor of New Creation Church in Singapore and a prominent voice in the Word of Faith movement, has been criticized by Illuminati theorists.
- Joel Hunter, former senior pastor of the distributed Evangelical church, Northland, was accused of Illuminati affiliations.
- John Hagee, founder and senior pastor of Cornerstone Church and a major figure in Christian Zionism, has been targeted by Illuminati conspiracy theorists.
- Carl Lentz, former lead pastor of the Charismatic Christian-affiliated Hillsong NYC, faced Illuminati allegations before his dismissal in 2020.

It's critical to underscore that there is no worldly credible evidence supporting these accusations. Verifying such claims is indeed challenging! Nonetheless, the Bible has forewarned us about the rise of false teachers and prophets and provides guidance on how to discern them ([Matthew 7:15-20](#), [1 John 4:1](#)). Firstly, their teachings should be aligned with the Bible ([Acts 17:11](#)). Secondly, the fruit of their lives and ministries should be examined ([Matthew 7:16-20](#)). Lastly, guidance should be sought from the Holy Spirit ([John 14:26](#), [John 16:13](#)).

The conspiracy theories linking these ministries to the Illuminati and Freemasons are largely unproven and speculative. However, it is important to recognize that the focus should be on the teachings and doctrines themselves. Regardless of any alleged connections, if a ministry's teachings deviate from the Bible, they should be approached with caution. The Bible instructs us to test everything and hold onto what is good. [1 Thessalonians 5:21-22](#) says, *"Test everything. Hold on to the good. Reject every kind of evil."* Additionally, [1 John 4:1](#) advises, *"Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world."*

These ministries often manipulate the teachings and practices to emphasize wealth, health, and success, potentially diverting believers from the true Gospel message. Distortion of Scripture and reinterpretation to cater to human intelligence and desires are frequently employed, making it challenging to discern their deviation from the truth. Coupled with the use of counterfeit miracles and satanically empowered prophecies and healings, these tactics serve as deceptive lures, drawing people into false hope and empty promises, and attracting large followings. The Bible warns us of such false prophets and teachers who seek to misguide the faithful.

[2 Peter 2:1-3](#) warns, *"But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who brought them—bringing swift destruction on those who believe. Many will follow their depraved conduct and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. In their greed these teachers will exploit you with fabricated stories."* Similarly, [2 Corinthians 11:13-15](#) states, *"For such people are false apostles, deceitful workers, masquerading as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants also masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve."*

Conclusion

While the allegations linking these ministries to the Illuminati and Freemasons remain unsubstantiated, it is essential to approach such claims with discernment and seek evidence before forming conclusions. More importantly, it is crucial to critically examine the teachings and practices of these ministries against the Bible. As Christians, we are called to uphold the truth of the Gospel and be wary of teachings that deviate from biblical doctrine. [Acts 17:11](#) commends the Bereans for their diligence: *"Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true."* Let us emulate their example, testing all teachings against the Word of God to ensure our faith remains firmly rooted in His truth.

In a world filled with deception and false teachings, it is our duty to remain vigilant and steadfast in our faith. By adhering to the true teachings of the Bible and rejecting doctrines that lead us astray, we can protect ourselves and others from the snares of the enemy. [Ephesians 6:11-12](#) reminds us, *"Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."* Let us stand firm in the faith, equipped with the truth of God's Word, and remain vigilant against the subtle and overt deceptions that seek to ensnare us.

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